



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JULY 10, 1959

### TUNA MEETING HELD IN WASHINGTON

Representatives of several Government agencies met July 8 with representatives of the Pacific Coast tuna industry to discuss the situation of the industry and to obtain views as to ways the Government might be of assistance. Assistant Secretary Ross Leffler represented the Department of the Interior and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, Thomas Beale represented the Department of State. Officials of the Departments of Commerce and Navy were also present.

A spokesman representing the Southern California segment of the industry made a number of proposals for immediate, intermediate, and long-range action by the Government.

Among these were suggestions for emergency loans, flexibility in the administration of present Government loan programs, a Government-to-Government conference with the Japanese covering a range of topics from conservation to price and volume controls, implementation of a tuna research program developed at the May 19-21 meeting at La Jolla, California, and action on vessel mortgage insurance and construction differential subsidies.

Major emphasis was placed on the desirability of holding Government-to-Government discussions with Japan.

Spokesmen for the tuna industry located outside of the Southern California area expressed agreement with certain of the proposals above. They did not support proposals for discussions with Japan with a view to a limitation on certain exports to the United States.

The representatives of the Departments of Interior, Commerce, and State said they would give careful consideration to the plan of action proposed with the understanding that no commitment was made as to the possible attitude of the Government on the plan.

Industry representatives included: Harold R. Cary, American Tunaboat Assn., San Diego, California; Lester Balinger, Fishermen & Cannery Workers Union, AFL-CIO, San Diego, Calif.; John Calise, Seine & Line Fishermen's Union AFL-CIO, San Pedro, Calif.; Anthony Nizetich, Fishermen's Coop. Assoc. of San Pedro, San Pedro, Calif.; Pete Repovich, California Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Inc., Terminal Island, Calif.

Also: John J. Royal, Local 33, Fishermen's Union ILWU, San Pedro, Calif.; M. D. Stewart, Five Star Fish & Cold Storage Co., San Diego 6, Calif.; Charles Carry, California Fish Cannery Assoc., Terminal Island, Calif.; Max Gorby, California Marine Packing & Curing Co., Terminal Island, Calif.; T. F. Sandoz, Columbia River Packers Assoc., Astoria, Oregon; Nick Trutanic, Star-Kist Foods, Inc., Terminal Island, Calif.; Charles D. Alhadeff, Whiz Fish Products Co., Seattle, Washington.

Also: Douglas Giddings, Westgate California Corp., San Diego, Calif.; Joseph Mardesich, Franco Italian Packing Co., Terminal Island, Calif.; Gilbert Van Camp, Jr., Van Camp Sea Food Co., Inc., Long Beach, Calif.; Mrs. George Zeluff, 2401 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, Calif.; and Cliff Weitz, Tuna Clippers Engineer Lodge of San Diego, San Diego, Calif.

Also: W. M. Chapman, Director of Research, The Resources Committee, American Tunaboat Association, San Diego, Calif.; Milton E. Brooding, California Packing Corporation, San Francisco, Calif.; and George E. Steele, National Cannery Association, Washington, D. C.

X X X